

Tiverton Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting
Town Hall
November 20, 2007

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Thomas Ramotowski, chair	none	none
Stuart Hardy, vice chair		
Patricia Sullivan, treasurer		
Robert Stringer		
Christopher Nearpass		
Bonnie Kane		

Public Delegations
None

Approval of October Minutes

Minutes for the October Regular Monthly Meeting will be considered for approval at the December Regular Monthly Meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Sullivan reported that the Commission has \$989.65 left for the current fiscal year. Our total budget is \$1,200. Funds will be raised from outside sources and spent on the Watershed Watch Program in the elementary schools.

Announcements

Announcements included:

- Contact information has been assembled for all full and associate commission members.
- A private well symposium is set for Dec 3 – 4 in Newport.
- Mr. Nearpass passed out written reports on the recent activities of the Wastewater Management Commission and on the organizational meeting of the private sector 'Tiverton Sustainable Energy Committee'.
- Tiverton Trailblazers continues to discuss a 'rails to trails' proposal with RIDOT.
- Invasive species issues are growing in interest and posing a threat to native species.
- Next year's regular monthly meeting schedule will be the same as 2007 – 3rd Tuesday of the month.
- Recent press articles about wind farm proposals were noted.

New Business

Commissioners agreed that the Black Goose Café concerns are not within the mandate of the commission. They should be addressed by the Town Council, the Zoning Board of Review and the Wastewater Management Commission.

The commission is supportive of Mr. Brian Janes' application to CRMC for a grant to study invasive species and water quality issues at Jack's Island. The commission will continue to work with Mr. Janes and assist where possible.

The Tree Commission is requesting a commission representative to replace Rachel Elder.

Old Business

The deadline for making a nomination for the 2007 Conservation Awards is Dec. 15.

Chris Spencer, Town Planner, has made comments and edits of the proposed Stone Wall ordinance. Mr. Nearpass, Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Hardy will follow-up on the next step in this process. The commission is still hoping for some substantive comments on the Outdoor Lighting initiative.

The commission approved two recommendations to the Charter Review Commission by a motion by Ms. Sullivan seconded by Mr. Nearpass. They are: (1) the creation of an Historic Preservation Advisory Board and; (2) the creation of a Design Review Committee. Both recommendations are policies of the 2006 Tiverton Comprehensive Community Plan.

Standing Committee Reports

Mr. Ramotowski announced that in the interest of time only half the committee reports would be addressed, with the remaining half taken up at the following monthly meeting.

Litter: P. Sullivan said that the Litter Committee had a successful workshop with the Town Council and that it will follow-up with Police Chief Blakely on enforcement. The chief will be invited to our January meeting.

Stonebridge Waterfront Improvement Task Force: no news.

Large Scale Retail Development: no news.

Wetlands Related Issues: Mr. Ramotowski will contact RIDEM about two apparent freshwater wetland fill violations on Fish Road. Mr. Hardy will provide him with previous correspondence on these violations.

Tiverton Input to CRMC: Carol Herrmann has been appointed Tiverton's representative to panel deliberations involving the Town of Tiverton.

Sewer, Septic & Cesspool Activities: Mr. Nearpass reported that 460 properties are now tied into the sewer and that an extension is continuing down Conanicus St. There are 230 homes in the Stafford Pond watershed, and a number of these homeowners have moved forward with an inspection of their wastewater systems, as required by town ordinance.

Sustainable Energy: Mr. Nearpass expanded on earlier comments about the meeting on sustainable energy hosted by Mr. Bill Gerlach. The focus of this group is wind turbines on town-owned land. Another meeting will be conducted but a date has not yet been set.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.